

25. (New) The separation element of claim 3 wherein the second segment includes a sealing structure comprising a face seal.

26. (New) The separation element of claim 25 wherein the end cap comprises an open end cap and the sealing structure has the largest outside diameter of the separation element.

27. (New) The separation element of claim 3 wherein the end cap comprises an open end cap including an annular gap formed between the first and second segments and a sealing member disposed in the gap.

IN THE ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

Separation elements may comprise two or more hollow pleated pack sections, joiner caps, and first and second end caps. The joiner caps are attached to at least one end of each of the two or more pack sections. Adjacent joiner caps are secured to coaxially connect the pack sections and joiner caps into a hollow separation arrangement which is at least about 40 inches in length and which has an interior diameter of at least about two inches. The first and second end caps are attached to the hollow separation arrangement. Separation elements may also comprise a hollow pleated pack and first and second end caps. The hollow pleated pack is at least about forty inches in length and has an interior diameter of at least about two inches. The first and second end caps are connected to the ends of the pack. Separation elements may also comprise a pleated pack and an end cap. The end cap includes a first segment and a second segment mounted to one end of the pack. The first and second segments are slideably arranged with one another and the end cap is extendable from a first position to a second position. The separation element may also comprise a pack and an end cap having a first segment, a second segment mounted to a first end of the pack, and a sealing member coupled to at least one of the first and second segments. The first and second segments are movable with respect to each other from a first position in which the sealing member is relaxed to a second position in which the sealing member is compressed by the first and second segments.